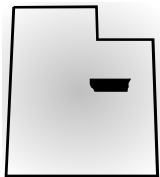


# County Trends



## Carbon

December 2002

### A Local Economic Perspective

#### Carbon County 2002 - On The Mend

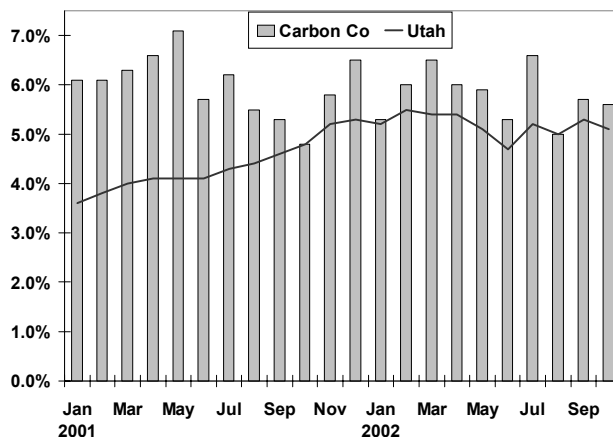
Carbon County seems to finally be on the mend from the impact of the Willowcreek Mine tragedy that reverberated through its economy. In the first half of 2002 jobs rebounded. This growth has resulted in a drop in the unemployment rate. The most current unemployment rate for October 2002 was 5.6 percent, slightly above the state's 5.1 percent average.

#### ***Employment Gains Ground***

Nonfarm employment jumped in Carbon County in the first two quarters of 2002 compared to the first two quarters of 2001. Nonfarm jobs rose 3.4 percent in the first quarter and 6.5 percent in the second quarter. A rebound in mining, of around 180 jobs, helped boost the economy. Service-production jobs increased in trade, health care, and hospitality.

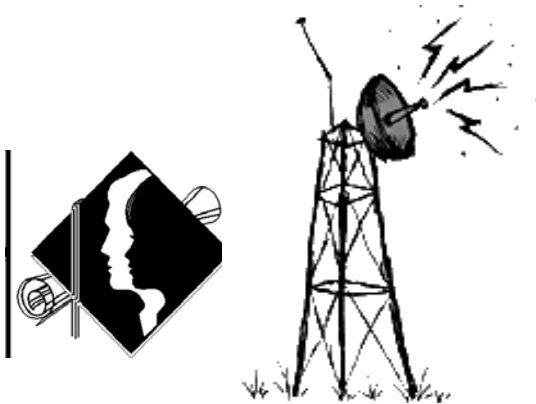
Goods-production employment was robust, adding over 200 jobs. Coal mining reversed direction by adding jobs, providing a much needed shot in the arm. Fabricated metals manufacturing also expanded. Construction jobs rose in the first quarter as new commercial buildings and heavy construction projects (roads, bridges, etc) were undertaken.

***Seasonally Adjusted Carbon County Unemployment Rates***

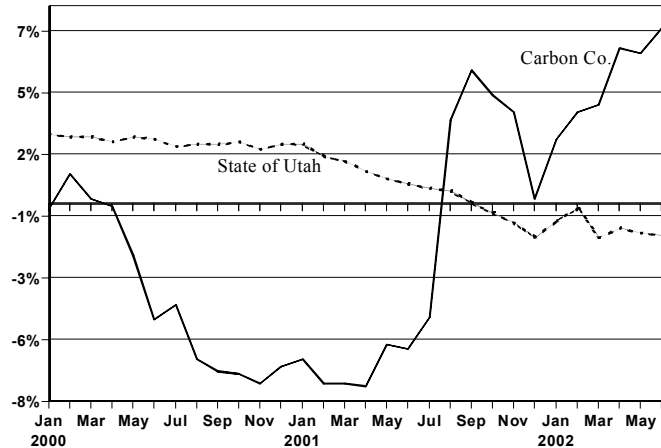


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.





## Year-Over Change in Carbon County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

# To the Point

**Following the Willowcreek Mine tragedy in 2001, Carbon County's economy went into a tailspin. However, the county's economy rebounded nicely in 2002 with a broad recovery in both goods- and services-based industries.**

The service-producing industries, which includes trade, transportation, information, recreation, lodging and food services, also expanded during the first two quarters of 2002. Health care and social assistance positions expanded. More than 100 jobs were added at merchandising stores. Food service jobs rose as well. Wholesale trade also reported healthy growth.

On the downside were trucking and rail transportation, which decreased slightly. Local government also cut jobs, primarily in education as enrollments have declined and budgets have tightened.

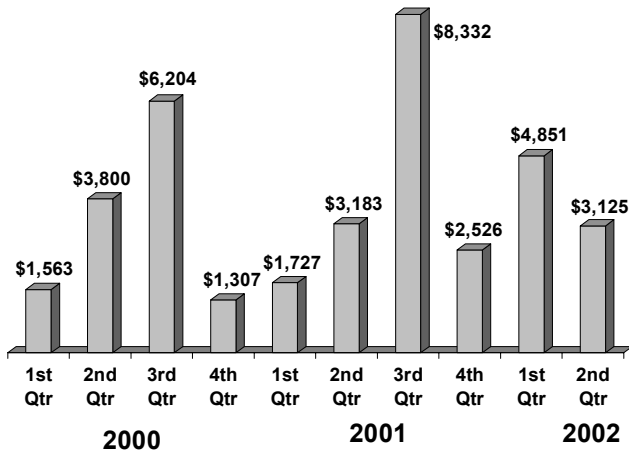
### ***Building Grows***

Construction activity, as measured by permit authorizations, increased dramatically in the first half of 2002. The total value of permit-authorized construction rose 62 percent through the first six months of 2002. Housing starts are up slightly, though residential valuations fell 37 percent.

Nonresidential activity enjoyed a dramatic jump, from around \$1.0 million in the first six months of 2001 to \$3.4 million in the first half of 2002. The building of a

## Carbon County Total Construction Permit Valuation

3



(Thousands of dollars)

Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.



\$1.5-million industrial building is the main reason for the sharp increase. The valuation of renovation work also surged thanks to a \$1.6-million retail store remodel.

### Sales Improve

Gross taxable sales improved 6.8 percent in the first half of 2002. Retail sales have been strong, particularly at merchandise stores and automobile dealerships. Construction, mining, and manufacturing sales also rose. Services sales were down due to declines in repair services.

### Outlook for the Rest of 2002

As the nation slowly recovers from the effects of the recession, residents of Carbon County will continue to see an upward trend in jobs throughout the remainder of 2002. The outlook, however, is murky and depends on mining sustaining its jobs. A positive for Carbon County is that its economy is becoming more diverse, and this will help sustain it during slow economic times.

Austin Sargent, Regional Economist  
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## Quick Facts

### October 2002

#### Unemployment Rate

Carbon County	5.6%
Utah	5.2%
U.S.	5.6%

### June 2002 Change from Previous Year

#### Job Growth

Carbon County	7.1%
Utah	-1.3%
U.S.	-1.1%

### 2nd Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

#### Construction Values

Carbon County	62.5%
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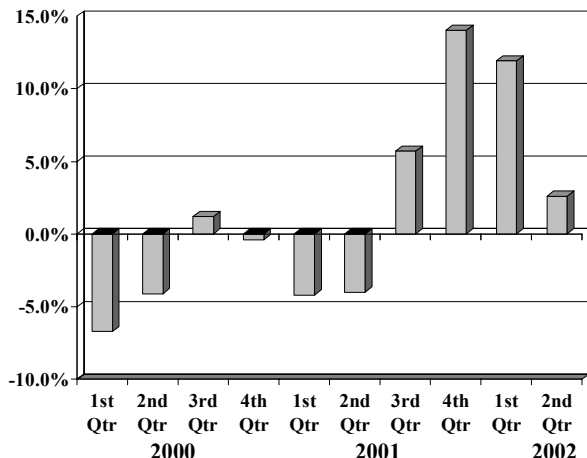
#### Sales

Carbon County	2.6%
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Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,  
Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
Utah Tax Commission,  
Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

**For more economic information about Carbon County see:  
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/County.asp>**

## Year-Over Change in Carbon County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

*The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.*

# What's Up? <sup>4</sup>

- Notification was sent to residents on Carbonville Road to expect more construction delays. A \$3.7 million road improvement project should begin in 2003.
- Construction is underway on the new Eastern Utah Surgical Center in Price.
- The Utah Department of Transportation will undertake \$4.0 million in several improvement projects to Highway 6 between Spanish Fork and Green River.

**For more economic events, see:**

**<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/eastern/carbon/carbonee.pdf>**



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### Equal Opportunity Employment Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128



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